

WEST HARTFORD SENIOR CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMISSION

MINUTES

March 15, 2016

Members Present: Noreen Batchelder, Ray Guenter, Ruth Kurien, Connie Melo, Ellen Phillips, Donna Sterling, and Philip Walker
Members Absent: Linda Hanson, Robert Kennedy
Staff Present: Kathleen Faroni, Ed Sanady, Armena Walsh
Guests: Sheila Diamond, Mary Silverberg, Chris Williams

Chairman Philip Walker called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM.

The Minutes of January 19, 2016 were approved unanimously. Because there was no quorum at the February meeting, Minutes had not been taken.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Philip Walker welcomed Chris Williams, a new Town Council member, Ed Sanady the new manager of Human Services, and Sheila Diamond, the new Executive Director of the Senior Job Bank.

Chairman Walker noted that next month Brian Peterson of AARP will be present to speak about the Fraud Watch Network.

Donna Sterling updated the Commission on what is happening with Eversource. There will be a Lunch and Learn on April 28th on the proposed Eversource project and the impact on the ECC and the community, included but not limited to driveway issues, safety, and parking. Marcia Welman will be the speaker. The Town Council has to approve the plan by early 2017. Allen Caldwell is the Eversource contact person and Ben Winograd chairs the Town's Planning Commission.

Transportation

Ruth Kurien reported that the Hartford Foundation for Public Given has provided a grant for a feasibility study. There are 24 drives, 15 of whom are very active; and 49 riders, 24 of whom are active. To date, \$6,000 has come in on the fundraising drive.

Town Council

Chris Williams spoke about the UConn Campus. The Council has approved that the Town Manager negotiate with UConn. Currently under consideration by UConn is selling the campus to Weiming, a Chinese group, for a new international school for Chinese freshman and sophomores with the students matriculating to Hall and Conard for their final two years. Tuition payments would be made to the town. Williams also discussed the town budget proposal which includes an increase of approximately 11 million (1.9%) to cover the pension obligation, a federal MS4 regulation on sediment runoff and a new computer science lab at Hall High.

Human Services

Ed Sanady reported that because the winter has been milder, Operation Fuel will be able to extend energy assistance. A part-time social worker has been hired for the geriatric population. The person speaks English, Spanish and Portuguese. The Rental Rebate program begins April 1. State dollars for Dial-A-Ride may be cut in the new budget. The ECC was the day shelter after the recent fire on Kane St. While the department had hoped to install a new case management computer system, the cost has been prohibitive. The new food commodities program has about 80 participants.

Senior Job Bank

Sheila Diamond introduced herself. She is the new Executive Director. The SJB is in the process of upgrading the computers. There is a plan to make it easier for customers to complete the satisfaction survey.

Staff Reports

Written reports accompany these minutes.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, April 19, 2016 at 10:00 AM.

The meeting adjourned at 11:47AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Lynn Silverman
Volunteer Secretary